

Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

End of another good season

REDOUBLING EFFORTS TO KEEP WEBSITE CURRENT



Mark Daniels
KSA President

This is the fourth and final edition of the KSA News for the 2010/11 riding season. I hope the snow sticks around and we're all riding well into spring. Long after the sleds are put away, the KSA will continue working on the issues that are important to sledders in the Yukon—access, safety, education and infrastructure. And, though you won't get another newsletter until fall, you can keep up with our activities on the KSA website; check it out at www.ksa.yk.ca.

I'll be the first to admit that we haven't always been diligent in keeping the website up to date. It really hit home with me a while back when someone told me that they were going to join the KSA but, after checking our website, he thought we weren't an active association. We've redoubled our efforts to keep the website current and added the hit counter to the bottom of the home page to track traffic. We're in the process of updating our antiquated site management software. Visits to our site have really picked up

over the past year or so. Thanks go to James Connor, Jim's son, for keeping us tech savvy. Of course, we still rely upon you, the sledder, for trail condition reports and photos so please send what you have.

Now that the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) gap analysis and trail planning process is wrapping up, the next step is to implement the plan and get some work done on the trail. TCT recently received \$10 million from the feds to be spent on trail development over the next two years. Our main focus for this summer continues to be the Wolf Creek Bridge. We have the design completed and some of the steel is bought. I submitted grant applications to both the Community Development Fund and TCT for construction money and we're waiting to hear back from them. We're working on getting the permits in place with the city should the money start to flow this summer. We continue to consult with land owners over routing of the trail in various places

Continued on page 2 ►



N. Daniels photo

Riders gather for the pre-ride safety speech by KSA president Mark Daniels.

How to be safe in the great outdoors

by MARK DANIELS

During Snowmobile Safety Week in January, I went out for coffee with some folks involved with the Whitehorse chapter of Search and Rescue.

Some of their members were on their way to a Survive Outside snowmobile safety workshop in Toronto and wanted to know some things about the local sled-ding scene. We committed to doing some joint safety activities in the future but, in the meantime, this group put me on to the Adventure Smart Program (<http://www.adventuresmart.ca/index.php>).

Unlike some programs that seem intent on scaring you into staying inside, the Adventure Smart motto is "Get informed and go outdoors."

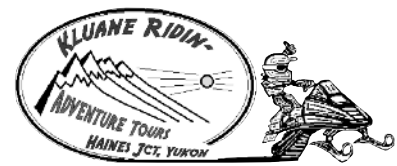
Their website is a treasure trove of great

Continued on page 2 ►

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SNORIDERS

SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

► HOW TO BE SAFE *Continued from page 1*

information on how to safely engage in all kinds of outdoor activities, including a Tip of the Week and 10 Essentials unique to a wide range of outdoor pursuits. There are categories for kids, general trip safety, and adventures on land, snow and water. The trip report is downloadable and should be seriously considered by anyone planning an outdoor adventure. You want anyone looking to save your bacon from a misadventure to have as much information as possible.

► END OF ANOTHER SEASON *Continued from page 1*

around the Yukon: we're waiting to hear back from the City about routing in the Crestview area, and we're hoping that YTG will approve using sections of highways to the north and south of Whitehorse. We're in the process of adding some local trails to the TCT in and around Teslin. And we're negotiating with the Yukon Quest to add the section of the Quest trail from Braeburn to Dawson as a winter alternative to the current highway route. Much of this work is being done through a local consultant on contract to the KSA and paid for by the TCT. This is one of the ways that the KSA brings in outside money to support the economy of the Yukon.

The Snowmobile Bylaw Review process has certainly brought snowmobiling issues to the forefront in Whitehorse. Some who oppose our activity vent in the media, regularly misinterpreting or misrepresenting the facts and misquoting me. Thankfully, they're the minority. Most citizens are more moderate and want to share the trails with other responsible users, though nobody wants to be ►



M. Daniels photo

Sleds and riders at the KSA charity poker run. This is the flagship event of the KSA season.

► awoken in the middle of the night by the sound of a snowmobile racing around on the streets. I appreciate the numerous phone calls and notes of advice and encouragement from sledders. Several non-snowmobilers have also offered words of support and thanks to the KSA for providing the great multi-use trail system that we all enjoy. In the last survey commissioned by the City, 98 per cent of respondents said that they used the multi-use recreational trail network that the KSA maintains.

The Yukon Off-Road Riders Association (YORRA) tells me that about 70 per cent of snowmobilers in the Yukon also own another type of off-road vehicle (ORV). Count me in that group. ORVs include ATVs, side-by-sides, UTVs, dirt bikes, and ARGO type vehicles. Once the city is done with the snowmobile bylaw review, they intend to tackle the summer motorized crowd. Anyone interested in preserving access for ORVs in Whitehorse should be paying close attention to the snowmobile bylaw review process and preparing to make their case before the next task force.

The KSA will continue to be the voice for organized trails and outdoor recreational access generally but, as I've said in the past, we cannot advocate specifically for ATV usage. It's outside our mandate and the terms of our insurance policy.

Poker run benefits women's shelter

by MARK DANIELS

The Annual Charity Poker Run is the flagship event for the KSA. Each year, we host this fun family event and collect money for a different Yukon charity. This year, we coincided the poker run with international Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week and partnered with the Women's Directorate on a campaign called Making Noise to End Violence Against Women and Girls. The proceeds were donated to Kaushee's Place, a local women's shelter.

Setting the trail was much less eventful than last year and we only had to do it once—no blizzards or raging creeks to contend with. Starting at Keith's Plumbing and Heating, as we have in the past couple of years, we used the tried-and-true 38-mile Jackson Lake loop for the event. Keith's is ideally situated along the trail system with plenty of parking for trailers and lots of room inside for the formalities. Gas and other necessities are available just around the corner. Harris and Rheo groomed the trail while Phil and I staked it. Much of the course was hard due to the recent thaw-and-freeze weather pattern and the groomers did a lot of rattling, particularly on top of Mount ►

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SNORIDERS

SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

N. Daniels photo



The Daniels family enjoys winter in the Yukon.

► McIntyre. Things went smoothly and we had enough time to set up the tables and chairs at the venue before I had to scoot off to hockey that night.

Sunday dawned bright and chilly with a thin blanket of fresh snow. It was -17°C on the way to the rink at 7:30 for the kids' game and had dropped to -21°C on the way home at 9:30. It was only four degrees short of the -25° cut-off mark and I was getting nervous. Thankfully, the mercury grew wings and by the noon start time it was a balmy -12°.

Bylaw Enforcement Services were on hand for the event in response to public complaints that the KSA was enticing underage riders to the event by offering incentives. For years, we have promoted the poker run as a fun and safe event for the whole family. This year was no different and several families came out to enjoy the perfect conditions and camaraderie. The youngest participant (a seven-year-old passenger) and the oldest (his 72-year-old grandfather) collected the Canadian Tire gift certificates.

The run went without incident, despite a bit of confusion caused by an unknown joker who turned some of our marker arrows

around after we set them. A couple of compliant sledders found themselves half-way up Fish Lake before concluding that they'd been bamboozled. This unintentional detour made for some laughs back at the shop. Several riders commented about the view from the top of Mount McIntyre and many stopped to take photos of the spectacular scenery.

As riders trickled back in, they were treated to burgers and drinks courtesy of the Boys and Girls Club of Whitehorse. Staff and volunteers from the Women's Directorate had a booth set up to educate the folks about the Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls and the role of Kaushee's Place. Participants voluntarily completed opinion surveys to assist the Women's Directorate with their social marketing activities. There has already been interest in the communities of Old Crow, Dawson and Fort MacPherson to have a similar snowmobile event as we did for this year's poker run. It looks like the KSA has set the trend for this meaningful cause. Sledding videos that were playing on the big screen also helped the folks pass the time until the red lantern crew arrived.

Once the hands were tallied, Ralph Wohlfarth won first place and the two Air North tickets worth \$1,000; Brad Milligan won the \$720 second-place prize consisting of snowmobile clothing, tools and an Alpine Aviation gift certificate; James Connor took third and \$600 worth of snowmobile clothing and

Continued on page 4 ►

Membership Form

Time to renew your KSA membership. Do you know someone who should become a member?

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership dues for the 2010/2011 season:

Single \$20 Family \$30

Corporate \$100 Gold Corporate \$300

Please make cheques payable to:

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Membership Benefits

- KSA membership card
- KSA newsletters (four per year)
- KSA licence plate and decals
- Input into the development of KSA policy
- Assistance with problems, projects and trail development initiatives in your area
- A strong, unified voice with government and other agencies
- A guarantee that volunteers are working on your behalf to enhance and promote trails in the Yukon Territory
- Five free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine
- 5% discount on Airport Chalet rooms
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- 10% off at Mt. Lorne Bed and Breakfast - www.klondikeriv.com
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If you have comments, photos or story ideas for the Klondike Report send them to:

Mark Daniels, Klondike Snowmobile Association
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► POKER RUN *continued from page 3*

gift certificates. The remainder of the participants drew for door prizes and nobody went home empty-handed. As this is a family event, the prizes included everything from wood stoves and tie-down straps to toys, perfume and earrings.

KSA activities are fuelled by volunteers and this event is no different. Thanks go to Phil Perrin, Harris Cox and Rheo Bedard for setting up the trail; Ron Balmforth, Janice Perrin, and Roch and Lori Fraser for running the checkpoints; and Nita Daniels, Jim Connor and Joe Wall for selling hands and memberships. A special thanks is owed Joe for canvassing for the prizes. It was great to have the Boys and Girls Club slinging burgers and the folks from the Women's Directorate educating the participants about the cause. I also want to acknowledge the many local businesses who support our charitable efforts, including Keith's Plumbing and Heating for donating the use of their shop for the past three annual events. I'm looking forward to doing it all again next year.

Young snowmobiler states her case

by NATALIE DANIELS

Some people say that kids under 16 shouldn't be allowed to drive snowmobiles and kids under six should not be passengers. I don't understand the reasons for this.

I think it's totally ridiculous that kids aren't allowed to start snowmobiling until they are 16. Snowmobiling is a fun way to spend time with family and friends. I'm 10 and I snowmobile a lot. I'm already practising for when I'm 16 and can drive a car. Snowmobiling is safe for young people as long as the rider is properly supervised.

I started riding on snowmobiles at the age of one when I used to go out for short rides with my parents. I would ride in front of them between their arms so I couldn't fall off. I got my own sled when I was three. I learned how to use everything (brakes, gas, etc.) before leaving the driveway. I would pretend I was driving without even starting the motor. When I got a little older, Dad ran beside me while I drove. He would hold a tether cord attached to the kill switch. If something went wrong Dad stopped, the tether popped out and the machine stopped. After I got comfortable driving and Dad didn't need to hold the tether anymore, I would follow Dad, and Mom would follow me, as we hit the trails. Now I drive Dad's huge sled, with him on the back and his hands on my waist. I think snowmobiling is safe when you take the steps to do it right. I have been hurt playing baseball. I was hurt playing tag with my friends. I got a concussion on the playground at school. I have never ever been hurt snowmobiling.

Snowmobiling is very good for kids; I enjoy the family time, nature and winter scenery. I like being outside, getting fresh air and exercise. It takes co-ordination and strength to drive a snowmobile safely. It's fun to try new things with my parents there for safety. I feel good about myself when I can climb a hill I have never climbed before. I am proud when I can do new things and I can do them well.

I'm so glad that my parents started me out snowmobiling when I was young and that I have the opportunity to keep developing my skills as I get older. As long as kids are taught properly and supervised by their parents, snowmobiling is safe and fun. I wear a helmet, I dress properly and I always ride with my parents.



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